Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

FEATURE FOCUS

Whirlwinds and Winds of the Spirit
A Message from Rev. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister

Some folks may be familiar with the story of Elijah taken up in the whirlwind and ascending into heaven leaving Elisha to continue the ministry of advising the leaders of the people. However in the last few weeks it has been more like Randy traveling down the road and the whirlwind staying behind to accompany me as I am immersed in this ministry and try to fill the role of advising leaders and fellow prophets as we embark upon this new part of the journey.
The office I occupy by your vote is Designated Conference Minister. It is a particular ministry described in the call agreement in this way: to become our pastor and teacher for a period of three years....During this time we ask that you lead us in a process of visioning, planning, and preparing a road map for our future, as described in the section "Where We Are Headed" from our Conference profile....At the end of the designated term, the Conference Board of Directors may elect to extend this call for up to two additional years in order to complete the work of building a new structure or preparing the

way for new ministerial leadership. As the psalmist says, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-20). We have much work to do together with great perception, deep compassion, abundant love, and unceasing prayer. I look forward to all the gifts, skills, talents, dreams, vision, and passion that will be shared over the next few years as we travel this road.

I am so appreciative of the hospitality of the folks of the Southeast Conference as I came in February to be called to this position of Designated Conference Minister and for Randy and Karen's abundant hospitality. I had the gift of spending three days with Randy after the meeting on February 1 to listen to and learn from Randy about this ministry. Gerri, Debbie, Sarah and Chris have been very generous with their time and patience as I have learned more about how the staff functions and the responsibilities and procedures of this office.

Click here to read the rest of Rev. June's message on the Southeast Conference Website

CONFERENCE NEWS

Beloved Community Damaged by Storm

Beloved Community Church in Birmingham was damaged in a storm on Friday, February 21st. Most of the roof was torn off and the brick cornice and air conditioning system damaged as well as significant water damage inside followed by two more rain storms before the damage estimates were fully complete. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister, was notified of the situation as she was traveling to Atlanta from her home in California. She has since met with Rev. Angie Wright, whose personal residence was also damaged. June was able to be in worship with Beloved Community on March 2nd. She has been working with the United Church of Christ Insurance Board to ensure that the claim is handled well and that Beloved can return to their building as soon as possible.

Churches in the area reached out to Beloved when the news became known and offered space and support as the church recovers. For now the congregation is worshipping at Avondale United Methodist Church a few

STILLSPEAKING YOUTH

Regional Youth Event this Summer

Join with other UCC youth around the south for the Regional Youth event! June 12-15, 2014 ~ hosted at Eckerd College, in St Petersburg, FL. This event is open to all 6th - 12th grade youth from the Florida, Southern, Southeast and South Central Conferences of the UCC. Our theme is "Touched by God." Registration is now open! More information and flyers coming soon. Join us on Facebook to stay updated.

Click here to link via Facebook

Click here for a link to information on the Florida Conference website

Click here to register!

Cost: Early bird registration for $240 ending 4/10/2014. Registrations received after that date will be $265 with a 5/15/2014 deadline.

Start planning now for the United Church of Christ National Youth Event!

Tuesday, July 26 through Friday, July 29, 2016
Planning is just getting underway and more information will be available at the Southern Regional Youth Event. Get this on your calendars now and start planning your fundraising!

blocks away. One of the casualties was Beloved's spring Music Festival and Fundraiser which was scheduled for March 13th. It will be rescheduled in the fall. Work has begun to repair the damage and the church is hoping to be back in their own building within a few weeks. For now, please keep the Beloved community in prayer. You may send your prayers and messages of support to beloveducc@aol.com.

CELEBRATION

Kimberly Nichole Sorrells was ordained to the Christian ministry at **Central Congregational Church United Church of Christ** on February 23, 2014. Kim is serving as Minister to Children and Youth at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Atlanta. One of the great joys of the ordination service was the presence of members and youth from St. Mark including a joint choir. Kim is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, but moved to Georgia to attend Berry College, where she majored in religion and minored in Psychology. Kim came to Atlanta to serve in AmeriCorps at Metro Atlanta Taskforce for the Homeless and Midtown Assistance Center. She graduated from Candler School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity in 2011.

For more pictures from the ordination, click here to visit the SEC website

PATHWAYS
Theological Education for a Changing World

PATHWAYS to Launch Level 3 Program in March 2014

by Sarah Kim

On January 25, 2014, a long-time MID who has served Community Congregational United Church of Christ (Montgomery, AL) as licensed minister since 2002, celebrated her ordainable-pending-a-call status, enthusiastically granted by the Ecclesiastical Council of the Southeast Conference, UCC. The event was a notable milestone, for Dorinda Broandnax is the first authorized minister in the Conference to be equipped for ordained ministry through a non-traditional educational path. As a graduate of the TAP (Theology Among the People) program-the predecessor of PATHWAYS-Minister Broandnax completed the MID process through continued service in the local church and creative learning efforts in theological education.

Click here to read more

Generosity Corner

Reminders:

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering is March 30, 2014

For information about Mission Moments for One Great Hour of Sharing, there are some Lenten themed reflections at http://www.ucc.org/stewardship/mission-moments

We encourage churches to send in their Basic Support

LIFTING UP

Covenant Community Church pastored by J. R. Finney in Center Point, AL, who lost their Administrative Assistant, **Ms. Gwen Bowen** on January 16th. Ms. Bowen, 61 years old, had worked for Pastor Finney for the last 12 years.

Mrs. Edna Menchhofer (wife of the late Rev. David Menchhofer) on the loss of her daughter-in-law, **Mrs. Kimberly Menchhofer, age 54 of Conyers, GA.** Kimberly was an advocate for children and a foster parent specializing in emotional and medically fragile children with special needs.

Sally Harris, Interim Pastor of **Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Birmingham, AL**, on the death of her sister, **Nancy Harris Smith**. Nancy died after a long battle with breast cancer.

Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

"For Such as Time as This"
June 20-21, 2014 at Piedmont College, Demorest GA
Decatur UCC is the hosting church

Pre-meeting pastors' retreat
June 19, 2014 @ Piedmont College
Details forthcoming

Nominations for Conference Positions

Nominating Committee:
Dorothy Gager, Susannah Davis, Marcia Bentley

If you are interested in serving in an elected conference position, please contact the office. There are positions available for Vice Moderator, At-Large Board of Directors, Stewardship and Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Commission on Ministry, and General Synod Delegate.

OCWM payments *at the end of each quarter.* If you can, please make the 1st payment of 2014 the end of March. Thank you. Questions? Contact Debbie Spearman at dspearman@secucc.org

Our Church's Wider Mission 2003 Update

Shown below are the **updated and final corrected figures** for what our Conference churches gave to the 4 OCWM Special Offerings. This is wonderfully generous giving from our small conference!

5 for 5 Church Recognition 2013

Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission
And the 4 Special Offerings

Being 5 for 5 is one sign of congregational vitality in UCC churches that fully support Our Church's Wider Mission. 5 for 5 churches give to Basic Support and all four Special Mission Offerings.

Belvidere First UCC
Belvidere, TN

Bethany Congregational UCC
Thomasville, GA

Birmingham First Congregational UCC
Birmingham, AL

Brookmeade Congregational UCC

Nashville, TN

Save the Date! October 16-18, 2015, is the biennial Southern Regional Women's Conference, a retreat for women from UCC Conferences: Florida, Southern, Southeast, and South Central. Southeast Conference area women are hosting the event at Sumatanga Camp & Conference Center, Gallant AL.

Serving on the planning team and representing UCC Women from the Southeast Conference area are:

Mary Ruth, Pleasant Hill TN; Pleasant Hill Community
Leslie Etheredge, Knoxville TN; Church of the Savior
Marsha Brown, Nashville TN; Phoenix Christian
Bette Thomas, Atlanta GA; First Congregational
Nancy Sales, Birmingham, AL; First Congregational
Frances Bryant Lowery, Decatur GA; Friendship, Atlanta
Dorinda Broadnax, Montgomery, AL; Community Congregational
Iris Burnell, Pleasant Hill TN; Pleasant Hill Community
Clara Benson, Charleston SC; Circular Congregational
Amber Kirkendoll, Safe Harbor Family Church in Flowood, MS.

Church of the Savior
Knoxville, TN

Kirkwood United Church of Christ
Atlanta, GA

Midway Congregational UCC
Midway, GA

Montgomery First Congregational UCC
Montgomery, AL

Open Table: A Community of Faith
Mobile, AL

Peace Congregational Church UCC
Clemson, SC

Pilgrim Congregational UCC
Chattanooga, TN

Pleasant Hill Community UCC
Pleasant Hill, TN

Praxis United Church of Christ
Atlanta, GA

The United Church of Huntsville
Huntsville, AL

United Church of Cookeville
Cookeville, TN

Forward this issue

Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

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